

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2001-865

January 3, 2003

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Rulemaking to Amend
Chapter 204, Basic Service Calling Area

NOTICE OF TECHNICAL
CONFERENCE

A Technical Conference has been scheduled for January 14, 2003, at 1:30 PM in the PUC Hearing Room, 242 State Street, Augusta, Maine. While any member of the public is welcome to attend, this technical conference is primarily for telephone utilities affected by the adopted revisions to Chapter 204 to discuss an implementation schedule and proposed rates with Staff.

Staff will have questions regarding the time to fully implement adding contiguous exchanges to the Premium BSCA option, including discussion of changes to billing systems, switch programming, and possible additional trunking.

Some LECs have indicated a belief that the rate of 5 cents a minute (previously 25 cents per call), for economy calling to exchanges within the BSCA that are not within the flat-rate calling area of the economy option, would not be implemented until the same time as the addition of contiguous exchanges. Nothing in the amended rule supports this view. The Order Adopting Amended Rule (Ordering Paragraph 3) requires LECs to file proposed implementation schedules only for the addition of contiguous exchanges to BSCAs, but does not mention the 5-cent rate. All amendments to the Rule other than the change in BSCAs resulting from the addition of contiguous exchanges are definitionally effective on the effective date of the amendments (December 17, 2002) unless the requirement is waived for good cause. Accordingly, participants at the Technical Conference are requested to provide any reasons why the 5-cent rate should not be implemented immediately.

Parties may file written responses or comments, either by mail to the Maine PUC, 242 State Street, Augusta, ME, 04333-0018; or by email to maine.puc@state.me.us.

Dated: January 3, 2003

By Order of the Presiding Officer,

Peter Ballou
Presiding Officer